

**Howard County Ethics Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Ethics Commission was held on August 18, 2021 via Webex.

Commission Members Present: Charles Fuller, Chair
Joanne Drielak, Vice Chair
Jonathan Kromm
Jean Xu

Absent Commission Member: Joseph Markwordt

Staff Members Present: Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Executive Secretary to the Commission

Chairperson Fuller called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Agenda: The Commission reviewed and approved the proposed Agenda upon a motion by Kromm, seconded by Drielak, passed.
2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on June 16, 2021 and upon a motion by Xu, seconded by Kromm, the minutes passed unanimously.
3. Attorney Perry gave the Commission an update on the Zoning Affidavits and Disclosure Forms required by Sections 5-852 through 5-854 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
4. Attorney Perry provided the Commission with an update on new ethics provisions enacted by the State and discussed compiling recommendations and waiting for the guidance of the State Ethics Commission.
5. Motion by Drielak to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Closed Meeting, which was seconded by Kromm and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:26 p.m. The Commission put on the record that it would not be going back into open session.

Closed Meeting: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: August 18, 2021

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:28 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice regarding Advisory Opinion 2021-03, and approval of Closed Meeting minutes from June 16, 2021 meeting.

Authority to Close: (1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; (2) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(13): To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and (3) To comply with the Commission's Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, "the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request."

Listing of topics discussed: Advisory Opinion 2021-03: The Commission discussed legal issues related to same and listened to presentations made by requestor.

Persons present: Attorney Perry; Members: Fuller, Drielak, Kromm and Xu. Xu did not participate in the deliberation process related to Advisory Opinion 2021-03 and recused herself from the remainder of the meeting.

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel.

Upon motion by Kromm, and seconded by Drielak, the Commission voted to adjourn the Closed Meeting at 6:46pm.



Kristen Bowen Perry

Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 11-4-2021